

LEED COUNCIL FOCUSES ON A MEMBER: A. FINKL & SONS

A. Finkl & Sons
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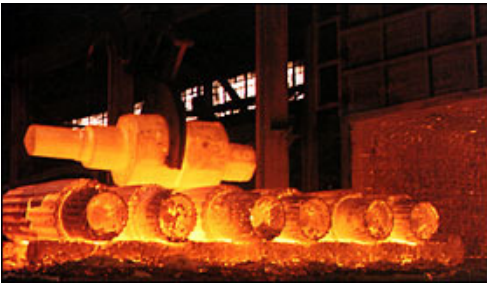
A. Finkl & Sons Co. was founded in 1879 when German immigrant Anton Finkl developed a new kind of chisel to clean bricks from buildings destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire. In 1902, A. Finkl & Sons Co. moved to its present location on Chicago's Near North Side in the Clybourn & Elston Corridors.

A. Finkl & Sons was acquired by SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH AG, a leading global producer of high-grade steels headquartered in Dusseldorf, Germany in 2006. From its simple beginnings, Finkl is now the world's leading supplier of forging die steels, plastic mold steels, die casting tool steels and custom open-die forgings, processing over 100,000 tons of steel each year.

Since the 1800s, Finkl has maintained a commitment to manufacture 100 percent of its products in Chicago. These products are distributed domestically and to more than 18 countries worldwide. The company sells their products to other manufacturers -- plastic processors, die casting companies and closed-die forging plants -- who use Finkl steel in their manufacturing operations. With more than 100 patents to its credit, Finkl's steel formulations and steelmaking technologies set worldwide standards. Finkl's facilities are on the leading edge of technology, using the most automated processes in the world. In recognition of Finkl's product quality, Finkl was the first integrated steel manufacturer in America to receive ISO 9000 certification.



Human Resources Generalist, Maria Orozco said, "We are a well established company. The employees at A. Finkl & Sons work hard and support each other a lot as a team. The company employs 400 workers in the area. These positions include machine helper, maintenance and office staff. Also, the company continues their efforts to beautify the area." At A. Finkl & Sons Co., they are deeply committed to improving and beautifying our environment through tree



planting and reforestation. Their goal is to plant 6,000,000 trees in protected forests in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Finkl is currently working on their relocation to the former Verson Steel plant on E. 93rd St., in the Pullman neighborhood on Chicago's south side. The Verson plant which was acquired by Finkl in 2006 has 500,000 square feet of vacant manufacturing space on 44 acres of land. The move will enable Finkl to greatly expand their operations, tripling capacity with more electrical power and other benefits at the new plant.

When asked what obstacles the company has faced, Maria stated, "One thing that has been a challenge is having the company divided by Cortland Ave with buildings on the north and south ends of the street. Since the buildings are not connected there isn't a good flow for their products to from one building to other." She continued to say, "What I like about the area? It's a great location, close to the expressway and public transportation is accessible. Also, there is a good pool of qualified job candidates."



A. Finkl & Sons has been very active with the LEED Council over the years. Two of LEED Council Board directors are Bruce Liimatainen, Finkls' Chairman, and David Laurenson, Chief Operating Officer, who have been very active over the years on industrial retention and development issues, supporting the Planned Manufacturing

Districts and hiring LEED Council's training graduates.

Maria mentioned that she likes to eat lunch at Chipotle located at 2000 N. Clybourn near the intersection of Cortland and Clybourn.